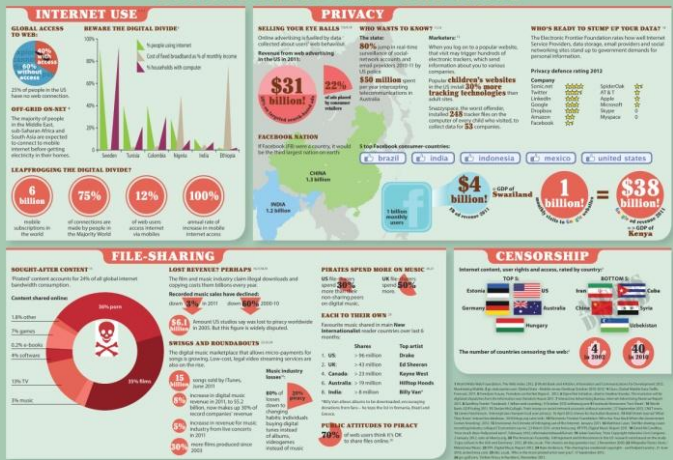


## DIGITAL FREEDOMS - THE FACTS



# New Internationalist

The people, the ideas, the action in the fight for global justice



# Free Internet?

New Internationalist Easier English lesson

Upper Intermediate

This lesson:

**Starter:** a video / chat



**Quiz:** how much do you know?

**Reading:** 2 texts about the Internet

**Speaking:** discuss ideas from the texts

**Writing:** a letter of thanks

Watch this 2-minute video  
.....and think .... how does  
“Dave” know so much?

[http://en.avaaz.org/833/this-will-put-psychics-out-of-business?utm\\_source=facebook\\_avaaz4&utm\\_medium=social\\_media&utm\\_campaign=hot-videos](http://en.avaaz.org/833/this-will-put-psychics-out-of-business?utm_source=facebook_avaaz4&utm_medium=social_media&utm_campaign=hot-videos)

# Quiz

first discuss what you think in groups

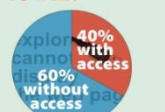
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2. What are the 5 countries where there is most censorship on the Internet?
3. What are the 5 countries where there is least censorship on the Internet?
4. What is downloaded free from the Internet most: music, films or pornography?
5. What percentage of people think it's OK to share files online?
6. What percentage of people in the world have access to the Internet?

# Now find the answers: <http://www.newint.org/features/2012/12/01/digital-freedoms-infographic/>

## DIGITAL FREEDOMS - THE FACTS

### INTERNET USE

#### GLOBAL ACCESS TO WEB:

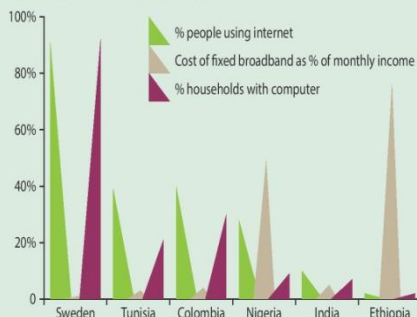


25% of people in the US have no web connection.

#### OFF-GRID ON-NET<sup>4</sup>

The majority of people in the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia are expected to connect to mobile internet before getting electricity in their homes.

#### BWARE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE<sup>5, 6, 7</sup>



#### LEAPFROGGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE?



### PRIVACY

#### SELLING YOUR EYE BALLS<sup>7, 8, 9, 10</sup>

Online advertising is fuelled by data collected about users' web behaviour.

#### Revenue from web advertising in the US in 2011:



#### FACEBOOK NATION

If Facebook (FB) were a country, it would be the third largest nation on earth:

#### WHO WANTS TO KNOW?<sup>11, 12</sup>

##### The state:

80% jump in real-time surveillance of social-network accounts and email providers 2010-11 by US police

\$50 million spent per year intercepting telecommunications in Australia

##### Marketers:<sup>13</sup>

When you log on to a popular website, that visit may trigger hundreds of electronic trackers, which send information about you to various companies.

Popular children's websites in the US install 30% more tracking technologies than adult sites.

Snazzyspace, the worst offender, installed 248 tracker files on the computer of every child who visited, to collect data for 53 companies.

#### 5 top Facebook consumer-countries:



#### WHO'S READY TO STUMP UP YOUR DATA?<sup>14</sup>

The Electronic Frontier Foundation rates how well Internet Service Providers, data storage, email providers and social networking sites stand up to government demands for personal information.

#### Privacy defence rating 2012

Company	Rating
Sonic.net	★★★★
Twitter	★★★★
LinkedIn	★★★★
Google	★★★★
Dropbox	★★★★
Amazon	★★★★
Facebook	★★★
SpiderOak	★★★
AT & T	★★★
Apple	★★★
Microsoft	★★★
Skype	★★★
Myspace	★★★

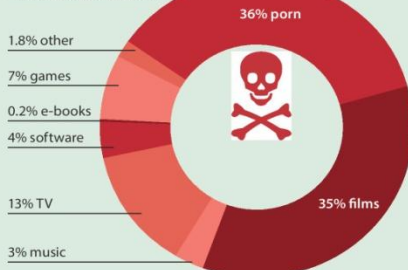


### FILE-SHARING

#### SOUGHT-AFTER CONTENT<sup>15</sup>

'Pirated' content accounts for 24% of all global internet bandwidth consumption.

#### Content shared online:



#### LOST REVENUE? PERHAPS<sup>16, 17, 18, 19</sup>

The film and music industry claim illegal downloads and copying costs them billions every year.

#### Recorded music sales have declined:

down 3% in 2011 down 60% 2000-10

\$6.1 billion Amount US studios say was lost to piracy worldwide in 2005. But this figure is widely disputed.

#### SWINGS AND ROUNDABOUTS<sup>20, 21, 22, 23, 24</sup>

The digital music marketplace that allows micro-payments for songs is growing. Low-cost, legal video streaming services are also on the rise.

15 billion songs sold by iTunes, June 2011

8% increase in digital music revenue in 2011, to \$5.2 billion, now makes up 30% of record companies' revenue

5% increase in revenue for music industry from live concerts in 2011

30% more films produced since 2003

#### Music industry losses<sup>25</sup>:

80% of losses down to changing habits: individuals buying digital tunes instead of albums, videogames instead of music

20% piracy

#### PIRATES SPEND MORE ON MUSIC<sup>20, 21</sup>

US file-sharers spend 30% more than their non-sharing peers on digital music.

UK file-sharers spend 50% more.

#### EACH TO THEIR OWN<sup>25</sup>

Favourite music shared in main New Internationalist reader countries over last 6 months:

	Shares	Top artist
1. US:	> 96 million	Drake
2. UK:	> 43 million	Ed Sheeran
4. Canada:	> 23 million	Kayne West
6. Australia:	> 19 million	Hilltop Hoods
8. India:	> 8 million	Billy Van*

\*Billy Van allows albums to be downloaded, encouraging donations from fans - he tops the list in Romania, Brazil and Greece.

#### PUBLIC ATTITUDES TO PIRACY

70% of web users think it's OK to share files online.<sup>26</sup>

### CENSORSHIP

#### Internet content, user rights and access, rated by country:<sup>27</sup>



#### The number of countries censoring the web:<sup>28</sup>



1 World Wide Web Foundation, The Web Index 2012. 2 World Bank and InfoDev, Information and Communications for Development 2012: Maximizing Mobile. 3 go.statecenter.com, Global State - Mobile versus Desktop October 2010-2012. 4 Cisco, Global Mobile Data Traffic Forecast, 2011. 5 Freedom House, 'Freedom on the Net Report', 2012. 6 Open Net Initiative, cited in Heather Brooke, The revolution will be digitized: dispatches from the information war, Random House 2011. 7 Interactive Advertising Bureau, Internet Advertising Revenue Report 2011. 8 Geoffrey Fowler Facebook: 1 billion and counting, 4 October 2012 online news. 9 Facebook Newsroom 'Fact Sheet', 10 World Bank, GDP listing 2011. 11 Declan McCullagh, Feds snoop on social-network accounts without warrants, 27 September 2012, CNET news. 12 James Hutchison, 'Intercept Laws hamper local user privacy', 16 April 2012, news for Australian Business. 13 Wall Street Journal 'What They Know' interactive database, 2010 blogs.wsj.com/whk/. 14 Electronic Frontier Foundation 'Who Has Your Back When the Government Comes Knocking', 2012. 15 Envisional, An Estimate of Infringing use of the Internet, January 2011. 16 Matthew Lasar, 'Did file-sharing cause recording industry collapse? Economists say no', 23 March 2011, arstechnica.org. 17 IFPI, Digital Music Report 2011. 18 David McCandless, 'How much does Hollywood earn?', February 2012, informationbeautiful.net. 19 Julian Sanchez, 'How Copyright Industries Con Congress', 3 January 2012, cato-at-liberty.org. 20 The American Assembly, 'Infringement and Enforcement in the US: research note based on the study 'Copy culture in the USA and Germany', 2012. 21 bbc.co.uk, 'File-sharers are big spenders too', 2 November 2009. 22 Wikipedia iTunes Store / Milestones/Music. 23 IFPI, Digital Music Report 2012. 24 Nate Anderson, 'File-sharing has weakened copyright - and helped society', 21 June 2010, arstechnica.com. 25 bbc.co.uk, 'Who is the most-pirated artist now?', 17 September 2012. 26 go-gulf.com, 'Online Privacy in Numbers', November 2011.

# Key:

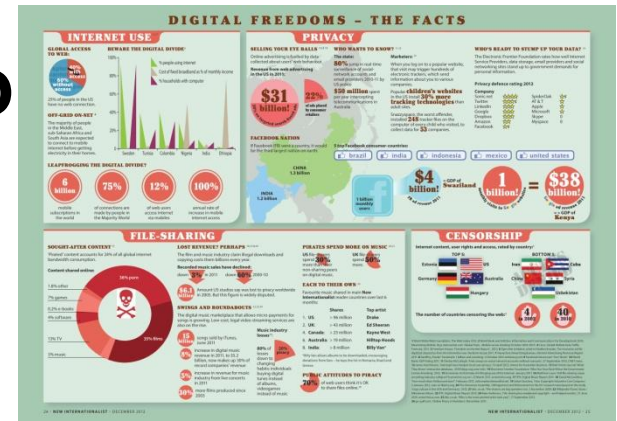
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  4. What is downloaded free from the Internet most: music, films or pornography?
  5. What percentage of people think it's OK to share files online?
  6. What percentage of people in the world have access to the Internet?
1. Brazil, India, Indonesia, Mexico and the US
  2. Iran, China, Cuba, Syria and Uzbekistan
  3. Estonia, US, Germany, Australia and Hungary
  4. Pornography (36%) (films – 34%; music 3%)
  5. 70%
  6. 40%

Now discuss:

1. How free is the Internet – in your country? in the UK and the US?

2. How free should it be?

3. How can it be freer?





# Reading

We're going to read a text called:



## How to be free

*Charlie Harvey tells us about 10 steps to software freedom on the internet.*

Discuss: What do you think will be in the text?

[http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/How to be free](http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/How_to_be_free)



# Now read it to match the paragraphs to the subtitles:

- 1. Use free software**
- 2. Download this software**
- 3. Be active and creative**
- 4. Stay safe**
- 5. Use free culture**
- 6. Say no to 'DRM'**
- 7. Protect your mobile phone**
- 8. Don't allow anyone to follow what you do**
- 9. Start a campaign**
- 10. Learn more**

- a) Try these: For browsing: Firefox; For secure web chat: CryptoCat; For word processing: LibreOffice; For graphic editing: GIMP
- b) More artists are releasing their work under free or open licences like those from Creative Commons. Listen to their music, read their books, and make donations to support this growing re-mix culture: [freemusicarchive.org](http://freemusicarchive.org) [search.creativecommons.org](http://search.creativecommons.org)
- c) It costs nothing, it is often more stable and it sometimes works better. It also lets you see the code your computer is running, and change this code if necessary. Free software is now far easier to use together with other programs.
- d) Software can't do anything alone. We need political change, better privacy and regulation of copyright too. Join these groups and support the fight for a free internet: Electronic Frontier Foundation Open Rights Group Liberty Index on Censorship
- e) Tor is a tool that makes internet connections anonymous to allow free speech. Dissidents, who speak against their government and risk their lives to speak the truth, use Tor to avoid censorship and imprisonment in some countries. If more people use the Tor server, this makes it more difficult for governments to find the people who speak against them: [torproject.org](http://torproject.org)
- f) Digital Survival Guide: Basic intro to computers, internet and mobile use; Top 12 ways to protect your online privacy: [eff.org](http://eff.org); Look at these technical resources that make your internet use more private: [techtoolsforactivism.org](http://techtoolsforactivism.org)
- g) Help the free software community to grow. You can report bugs, request new features, offer to do translation or design, or – if you're good at coding– write code.
- h) You bought it, it belongs to you – but you don't control it. Publishers can stop people from sharing e-books – and music – using Digital Rights Management. DRM adds malicious software into your e-book reader that lets the book publisher change your reader remotely. Buy a New Internationalist e-book with no DRM!: [shop.newint.org](http://shop.newint.org)
- i) Many websites have advertising and social media widgets and they make a profile of people who read them. Somewhere there's a record of when you asked for advice about your embarrassing medical condition, or when you were interested in an embarrassing political case. Protect yourself from unwanted tracking and adverts with browser plugins like Ghostery or AdblockPlus.
- j) More people are carrying phones which can do things like sell your geo-data (information about where you are) to companies, be easily intercepted and lock-down your software. If you have an Android, that means your operating system is 95% free, and it can add privacy tools from The Guardian Project to stop governments and businesses from looking at your information.

# Key:

**1. Use free software**

**2. Download this software**

**3. Be active and creative**

**4. Stay safe**

**5. Use free culture**

**6. Say no to 'DRM'**

**7. Protect your mobile phone**

**8. Don't allow anyone to follow what you do**

**9. Start a campaign**

**10. Learn more**

1c) It costs nothing, it is often more stable and it sometimes works better. It also lets you see the code your computer is running, and change this code if necessary. Free software is now far easier to use together with other programs.

2a) Try these: For browsing: Firefox; For secure web chat: CryptoCat; For word processing: LibreOffice; For graphic editing: GIMP

3g) Help the free software community to grow. You can report bugs, request new features, offer to do translation or design, or – if you're good at coding – write code.

4e) Tor is a tool that makes internet connections anonymous to allow free speech. Dissidents, who speak against their government and risk their lives to speak the truth, use Tor to avoid censorship and imprisonment in some countries. If more people use the Tor server, this makes it more difficult for governments to find the people who speak against them: [torproject.org](http://torproject.org)

5b) More artists are releasing their work under free or open licences like those from Creative Commons. Listen to their music, read their books, and make donations to support this growing re-mix culture: [freemusicarchive.org](http://freemusicarchive.org) [search.creativecommons.org](http://search.creativecommons.org)

6h) You bought it, it belongs to you – but you don't control it. Publishers can stop people from sharing e-books – and music – using Digital Rights Management. DRM adds malicious software into your e-book reader that lets the book publisher change your reader remotely. Buy a New Internationalist e-book with no DRM!: [shop.newint.org](http://shop.newint.org)

7j) More people are carrying phones which can do things like sell your geo-data (information about where you are) to companies, be easily intercepted and lock-down your software. If you have an Android, that means your operating system is 95% free, and it can add privacy tools from The Guardian Project to stop governments and businesses from looking at your information.

8i) Many websites have advertising and social media widgets and they make a profile of people who read them. Somewhere there's a record of when you asked for advice about your embarrassing medical condition, or when you were interested in an embarrassing political case. Protect yourself from unwanted tracking and adverts with browser plugins like Ghostery or AdblockPlus.

9d) Software can't do anything alone. We need political change, better privacy and regulation of copyright too. Join these groups and support the fight for a free internet: Electronic Frontier Foundation Open Rights Group Liberty Index on Censorship

10f) Digital Survival Guide: Basic intro to computers, internet and mobile use; Top 12 ways to protect your online privacy: [eff.org](http://eff.org); Look at these technical resources that make your internet use more private: [techtoolsforactivism.org](http://techtoolsforactivism.org)

Now discuss the advice given in the  
text:

Discuss the suggestions in groups  
and put them in the order of  
most useful to least useful.

Which suggestion(s) are you going  
to try? Why?

## Reading text 2

***Discuss:*** How  
can we keep  
human rights  
in a digital  
world?



[http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Digital free  
dom: don%27t get angry, be open](http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Digital_free_dom:don%27t_get_angry,_be_open)

Can you match these? Discuss, then scan quickly (5 minutes) through the text to check:

[http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Digital freedom: don%27t get angry, be open](http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Digital_freedom:_don%27t_get_angry,_be_open)

1) Bitcoin

a) this restricts and controls what you can do on your own computer, i-phone or e-book

2) DRM

b) a group who develop free, open versions of software

3) Secushare

c) a digital currency that could make banks unnecessary

4) FSF

d) a way to protect personal freedom and privacy and avoid censorship

5) cdjns

e) a safe social network

# Key:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1) Bitcoin   | 1c) a digital currency that could make banks unnecessary  |
| 2) DRM       |   |
| 3) Secushare | 2a) this restricts and controls what you can do on your own computer, i-phone or e-book (Digital Rights Management) |
| 4) FSF       |   |
| 5) cdjns     | 3e) a safe social network   |
|              | 4b) a group who develop free, open versions of software (Free Software Foundation)                                  |
|              | 5d) a way to protect personal freedom and privacy and avoid censorship  |

Now read the text in more detail.

The final sentence is: “Open systems and the people who design them deserve our support.” Why? – read to find some reasons:

[http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Digital free  
dom: don%27t get angry, be open](http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Digital_free_dom:don%27t_get_angry,_be_open)

Then discuss in pairs



# Writing

In pairs/groups, write a formal letter to the people who design free software to thank them:

- Explain why you are writing
- Explain why you think the free software is so important
- Thank them

You can look back at the text for ideas to help you.

# Homework:

1) Read the original version of both texts:

<http://www.newint.org/features/2012/12/01/ten-steps-software-freedom/>

<http://www.newint.org/features/2012/12/01/open-source-digital-freedom-keynote/>

and see how much more vocabulary and grammar you learn.

2) Read a related text about Anonymous:

[http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/How\\_Anonymous\\_got\\_political](http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/How_Anonymous_got_political)

(easier English)

<http://www.newint.org/features/2012/12/01/anonymous-into-politics/>

(original version)